

SCRAPBOOKING INSTRUMENT SET

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/396,857, filed July 17, 2002.

5 STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 This invention relates to making and using scrapbooks. More particularly, this invention relates to instruments and methods for making and using scrapbooks.

From small beginnings in the early 1990s, the scrapbooking industry has exploded into a multi-billion-dollar industry. Methods of constructing scrapbook pages have evolved from simply cutting and pasting to ever-more-elaborate decorations, with
15 various borders, attachments, covers, layouts, etc.

One popular method of constructing and embellishing scrapbook pages uses eyelets made of metal or other malleable material to attach different sections of the page together. Since eyelets are manufactured in various decorative shapes, they
20 may also be used simply for decoration.

The eyelets are installed by first punching a properly sized

hole out of the page material, be it paper, pasteboard, cardboard, foam, or other material. Using a tool known in the industry as a setter, the scrapbooker then installs the eyelet.

Scrapbookers have been inconvenienced, however, with the
5 varying sizes of hole punches and setters to accommodate differently sized eyelets. Scrapbookers must individually purchase three or four different hole punches and three or four different setters. Storing the hole punches and setters is
10 inconvenient and damaging, since most storage methods comprise laying the instruments loosely in storage compartments where their sharp edges, necessary for effective work, are dulled and otherwise damaged.

The present invention provides an apparatus whereby hole punches and setters of varying sizes can be sold and used in a
15 single unit, and provides an apparatus for storing the instruments wherein they are free from damage and wear other than from their intended uses, by storing them vertically and spaced from each other.

Various patents describe interchangeable bits for tools into
20 a common mount. Fruhm, U.S. patent 6,352,011 B1, describes two-ended screwdriver bits, either end of which can be inserted and used in a mounting tool. Sanger, U.S. patent 532,823, describes a multiple screwdriver wherein various bits can be inserted. Glover, U.S. patent 438,150, describes a tool holder wherein

various tools can be mounted. Graham, U.S. patent 4,572,038, describes a multi-purpose tool wherein various tips are stored. A rotational apparatus exposes the needed tip for the job. Lin, U.S. patent 4,480,668, describes a screwdriver kit containing
5 four driver blades in a magazine tube inside the handle, wherein the handle can be manipulated to cause the desired driver blade to protrude out of the handle. Hsiao, U.S. patent 6,363,820 B1, describes a hand tool for driving a fastener about an axis
10 wherein a handle contains an axially extending bore which receives a fastener engaging member, ensuring engagement with an annular deformable member inside the bore. The engaging member receives various bits.

No one, however, has ever put scrapbooking tools into such a configuration, as the present invention does. In addition, no
15 one has provided for the present invention's particular type of storage apparatus for scrapbooking tools.

In view of the foregoing, it will be appreciated that providing a scrapbooking instrument set and method would be a significant advancement in the art.

20 BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An illustrative embodiment of the present invention comprises a handheld combination hole puncher and eyelet setter tool comprising:

an elongated handle having a first end and a second end,
wherein the first end comprises an axially extending hole and the
second end is adapted to receive an impact force;

5 a plurality of interchangeable hole punches and setters,
each of the hole punches and setters adapted to be slidably
mounted in the axially extending hole; and

a holder disposed in the axially extending hole whereby a
hole punch or setter mounted in the axially extending hole is
removably held in place such that when the impact force is
10 delivered to the second end of the elongated handle, the impact
force is transferred to the hole punch or setter.

In certain embodiments of the invention, this tool further
comprises an air pressure relief hole in communication with the
axially extending hole, and the elongated handle is
15 substantially cylindrical in shape. The holder can be an o-ring,
for example. The hole punches illustratively comprise a
cylindrical shank having a bit at one end. The bit comprises a
sharp annular edge for cutting. The hole punches further
comprise a disposal tunnel extending from the sharp annular edge
20 through the cylindrical shank to a disposal hole thereby
providing an exit for cut material. The setters comprise a
cylindrical shaft having a bit at one end, the bit adapted to set
eyelets.

Another illustrative embodiment of the invention comprises a

storage apparatus for storing a handheld combination hole puncher and eyelet setter tool and a plurality of hole punches and setters, the apparatus comprising:

a cylindrical base having a top, a bottom, and a side wall;

5 a main hole in the top of the base adapted to receive the handheld combination hole puncher and eyelet setter tool such that the handheld combination hole puncher and eyelet setter tool is maintained in an upright position; and

10 a plurality of secondary holes in the top of the base, each of the secondary holes adapted to receive one of the hole punches or setters.

The storage apparatus can further comprise a cover, the cover being cylindrical in shape and having a closed top and an open bottom, the cover being transparent. The cover can also
15 comprise a threaded portion, wherein the cylindrical base further comprises a set of threads in the side wall, and the threaded portion of the cover is adapted to rotatably engage the set of threads in the side wall of the base. Various materials may be used for fabricating the base, but a foam material is one
20 illustrative material that can be used.

Another illustrative aspect of the invention comprises a method for installing an eyelet into a piece of material using a combination hole punch and eyelet setter tool, said method comprising:

selecting a hole punch corresponding in size to the eyelet and installing it into the combination hole punch and eyelet setter tool;

5 punching a hole in the material at the desired location by striking the combination hole punch and eyelet setter tool with a mallet or hammer such that the hole punch cuts the material;

interchanging the hole punch with a setter of corresponding size in the combination hole punch and eyelet setter tool; and

10 setting the eyelet using the setter installed in the combination hole punch and eyelet setter by striking the combination hole punch and eyelet setter with a mallet or hammer such that the setter sets the eyelet.

Still another illustrative embodiment of the invention comprises a hole puncher and eyelet setter kit comprising:

15 a handheld combination hole puncher and eyelet setter tool comprising

an elongated handle having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end comprises an axially extending hole and the second end is adapted to receive an impact force,

20 a plurality of interchangeable hole punches and setters, each of the hole punches and setters adapted to be slidably mounted in the axially extending hole, and

a holder disposed in the axially extending hole whereby
a hole punch or setter mounted in the axially
extending hole is removably held in place such
that when the impact force is delivered to the
5 second end of the elongated handle, the impact
force is transferred to the hole punch or setter;
and

a storage apparatus comprising

a cylindrical base having a top, a bottom, and a side
10 wall,

a main hole in the top of the base adapted to receive
the handheld combination hole puncher and eyelet
setter tool such that the handheld combination
hole puncher and eyelet setter tool is maintained
15 in an upright position, and

a plurality of secondary holes in the top of the base,
each of the secondary holes adapted to receive one
of the plurality of hole punches and setters.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

20 FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the scrapbooking instrument
set, showing the base, with the cover screwed on, and the
mounting tool, hole punches and setters stored vertically in the
base.

FIG. 2 is an elevation cutaway view of the mounting tool,
with a hole punch or setter mounted into it.

FIG. 3 is an elevation cutaway view of a large hole punch.

FIG. 4 is an elevation cutaway view of a small hole punch.

5 FIG. 5 is an elevation cutaway view of a medium hole punch.

FIG. 6 is an elevation view of a universal setter.

FIG. 7 is an elevation view of a medium setter.

FIG. 8 is an elevation view of a large setter.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of the base.

10 FIG. 10 is a perspective view of the cover.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Before the present scrapbooking instrument set and method
are disclosed and described, it is to be understood that this
invention is not limited to the particular configurations,
15 process steps, and materials disclosed herein as such
configurations, process steps, and materials may vary somewhat.
It is also to be understood that the terminology employed herein
is used for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only
and is not intended to be limiting since the scope of the present
20 invention will be limited only by the appended claims and
equivalents thereof.

The publications and other reference materials referred to
herein to describe the background of the invention and to provide

additional detail regarding its practice are hereby incorporated by reference. The references discussed herein are provided solely for their disclosure prior to the filing date of the present application. Nothing herein is to be construed as an admission that the inventors are not entitled to antedate such disclosure by virtue of prior invention.

It must be noted that, as used in this specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "an," and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

Thus, for example, reference to a handheld combination hole puncher and eyelet setter tool comprising "a holder" includes references to such a tool comprising two or more of such holders, reference to "an impact force" includes reference to one or more of such impact forces, and reference to an air pressure relief hole includes reference to two or more of such air pressure relief holes.

In describing and claiming the present invention, the following terminology will be used in accordance with the definitions set out below.

As used herein, "comprising," "including," "containing," "characterized by," and grammatical equivalents thereof are inclusive or open-ended terms that do not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps. "Comprising" is to be interpreted as including the more restrictive terms "consisting

of" and "consisting essentially of."

As used herein, "consisting of" and grammatical equivalents thereof exclude any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claim.

5 As used herein, "consisting essentially of" and grammatical equivalents thereof limit the scope of a claim to the specified materials or steps and those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristic or characteristics of the claimed invention.

10 Referring to FIG. 1, an illustrative aspect of the invention comprises a cylindrical base 1, covered by a cylindrical transparent cover 2. The base contains a vertical cylindrical central hole 3, into which a cylindrical mounting tool 4 is placed. Around the central hole 3 are placed, in circular
15 arrangement, holes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, which are of substantially equal size and shape. Into holes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 are vertically placed a large setter 11, a medium setter 12, a universal setter 13, a medium hole punch 14, a large hole punch 15, and a small hole punch 16, respectively. Hole punches 14,
20 15, 16 and setters 12, 13, 14, except for their different bits located on one end of each instrument thereof, are of substantially equal length and diameter, such that they can be placed interchangeably into holes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and such that they each fit into mounting tool 4.

FIG. 2 shows medium hole punch 14 mounted in mounting tool 4, although any one of hole punches 14, 15, 16 or setters 11, 12, 13 could just as easily be shown. Mounting tool 4 is, in an illustrative embodiment, made of hardened steel, and has an axially extending cylindrical hole 17, extending from an open end 18 to a closed end 19 within mounting tool 4. Hole 17 is of substantially equal shape and of slightly larger diameter than setters 11, 12, 13 and hole punches 14, 15, 16. A conformable O-ring 20 made of rubber or similar material is placed within hole 17 in a seating groove 21 to grip hole punch 14 securely. A small hole 22 leads from hole 17 to the outer surface of mounting tool 4 to relieve air pressure changes in hole 17 when hole punch 14 is installed or removed.

Mounting tool 4 thus allows for interchangeable installation and removal of setters 11, 12, 13 and hole punches 14, 15, 16, allowing the setters and hole punches to be smaller than they would otherwise have to be, which in turn allows for convenient packaging of multiple setters and hole punches. Thus the setters and hole punches can be stored vertically and spaced from each other to avoid damage and possible loss of one or more instruments.

When a hole punch or setter is placed in mounting tool 4 as described above, the user can then place the exposed end 23 against the paper or eyelet or other material to be manipulated,

and strike the opposite end 24 of mounting tool 4 with a mallet or hammer to achieve the desired effect.

FIGS. 3, 4, and 5 show large hole punch 15, small hole punch 16, and medium hole punch 14, respectively. The hole punches are made of hardened steel in an illustrative embodiment. All three hole punches 14, 15, 16 are similarly constructed. Referring to Fig. 3, hole punch 15 comprises a cylindrical shank 24a and bit 25 located on one end of shank 24a. Bit 25 comprises an annular bevel 26 leading from shank 24a to a sharp annular edge 27, which is placed under sharp pressure against paper or other material to create a hole therein. A disposal tunnel 28 leads through shank 24a from annular edge 27 to disposal hole 29, providing an exit for cut material wedging itself within edge 27 when hole punch 15 is in use.

In use, shank 24a is placed in hole 17 of mounting tool 4, being secured by O-ring 20 (Fig. 2), with bit 25 exposed.

Referring to FIG. 4, small hole punch 16 is constructed identically to large hole punch 15, except that hole punch 16's sharp annular edge 30 is smaller in diameter than annular edge 27 (FIG. 3). Disposal tunnel 31 and disposal hole 32 are also smaller than their counterparts in FIG. 3 (tunnel 28 and hole 29).

Referring to FIG. 5, medium hole punch 14 is constructed identically to large hole punch 15 and small hole punch 16,

except that hole punch 14's sharp annular edge 33 is smaller in diameter than annular edge 27 (FIG. 3) and larger in diameter than annular edge 30 (FIG. 4). Disposal tunnel 34 and disposal hole 35 correspond in size to annular edge 33.

5 As their names imply, large hole punch 15, small hole punch 16 and medium hole punch 14 create large, small and medium holes, respectively, when used with mounting tool 4.

FIG. 6 shows universal setter 13, which, when mounted in mounting tool 4, is used to secure small or odd-sized eyelets
10 through holes created by hole punches 14, 15 or 16. Universal setter 13 comprises a shank 36 and bit 37 disposed on one end of shank 36. Bit 37 comprises a cone 38 whose lower edge 39 meets shank 36 and which ends in a point 40. In an illustrative
15 embodiment, universal setter 13, along with large setter 11 and medium setter 12, is made of hardened steel to withstand wear
occasioned by use with mounting tool 4.

FIG. 7 shows large setter 11, which, when mounted in mounting tool 4, is used to secure large eyelets. Large setter
11 comprises a shank 41 and a bit 42 disposed on one end of shank
20 41. Bit 42 comprises an annular groove 43 and a circular central protrusion 44 in the center of groove 43.

FIG. 8 shows medium setter 12, which is constructed substantially identically to large setter 11 except that its bit 45 has an annular groove 46 narrower in width than annular groove

43 (FIG. 7), leaving a central protrusion 47 larger in diameter than central protrusion 44 (FIG. 7). When mounted in mounting tool 4, medium setter 12 is used to secure medium-size eyelets.

FIG. 9 shows base 1, which is constructed of foam or similar material in an illustrative embodiment. Base 1 is cylindrical in shape, with threads 48 running around it in order to enable cover 2 to screw onto it. At the top and center of base 1 is located hole 3, cylindrical in shape and axially disposed into base 1. Hole 3 is shaped and sized such that mounting tool 4 fits into it vertically for storage. Surrounding hole 3 in circular arrangement are holes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, which are cylindrically shaped and sized slightly larger than hole punches 14, 15, 16 and setters 11, 12, 13, respectively, such that each of the hole punches and setters fit into each hole for vertical storage.

FIG. 10 shows cover 2, which is cylindrical in shape and hollow, with a closed top 49 and open bottom 50. Cover 2 is constructed of clear plastic in the preferred embodiment, such that the user can see the instruments therein without removing the cover. Cover 2 is fitted with threads 51 on its lower half, which screw onto threads 48 on base 1 (FIG. 9).